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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

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NO FOREIGN DISSEMINATION

October 22, 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Letter to Jack Watson from Epifanio Mendez Critical of Paraguayan Government

Epifanio Mendez purports to be providing the U.S. Government with a report on activities of both the Paraguayan Government and recognized political parties in that country which could adversely affect our human rights policy objectives. The report is critical of both the leadership of the governing Colorado party and the opposition Liberal Party factions. It claims that only the Colorado Party in exile can reunite all the political factions in Paraguay.

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[redacted] 3.3(b)(1)

We were informed by Amnesty International on October 20 that Mendez has been arrested in Argentina and his current whereabouts are unknown. The Department of State will make representations both in Argentina and Paraguay on behalf of Mendez on human rights grounds.

We recommend that Mr. Watson not reply to the letter. The reply would almost certainly be intercepted by Argentine authorities. If the reason for Mendez' arrest was related to political activities which are not tolerated by the Argentine Government, such a letter from the White House could be utilized as evidence against him.

Frank G. Wisner for
Peter Tarnoff
Executive Secretary

Attachment:

[redacted] 3.3(b)(1)

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